

April 14, 2016

The April 14, 2016 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chair Ruth Pante, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, following the meeting of the Green Team. The meeting began with a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Ruth Pante, James McMekin, Glenn Todd, Dawn Smith, Robert Jewell and Township Committeeman Joseph Watters; Elaine Drazek was excused. In the audience was Township resident Elizabeth Griggs.

#### Minutes

Ms. Smith noted that in the last paragraph of the March 10, 2016 minutes, third line down, the phrase "grant money is available for a trail" should be deleted. With that correction, Mr. Todd MOVED to approve the March 10, 2016 minutes, seconded by Mr. Jewel; all in favor.

#### Correspondence

Review of a Highlands Applicability Determination Applicability is requested by Don Warzecha for the property at 305 Hazen Road; an exemption is requested. It was pointed out that the property is in the Highlands preservation area, and as a single lot it is exempt (not a development). This is information only.

Discussion followed review of the application, including whether Mansfield can do something to eliminate paperwork and permitting fees and review time, which could be done by a Zoning Officer. At this time, Mansfield does not have a Zoning Officer.

#### Moth Night

Ms. Pante reported no further information is available for the July 29 event at Merrill Creek except that the moth viewing will begin at 10:00 p.m. Ms. Smith will contact Jim at Merrill Creek for further details.

#### Earth Day

Abilities of New Jersey is preparing the T-shirts that will be used as prizes for the Earth Day event at Mansfield School. This is being coordinated by Ms. Drazek.

#### 2016 ANJEC Grant

The grant application for the photo catalogue of Mansfield sites was submitted prior to the April 1 deadline and was accepted and determined to be in order. The Township Committee has approved the photo contest. The rules for submission and how to receive and share the photos for voting are being prepared. Mr. Misertino will help draft the rules.

#### Cafferata Park

The only outstanding item for completion of the grant is spending for the signage. The final report is due June 15.

National Hike Day has been approved by the Township Committee for June 4 at 8:00 a.m. A flyer is being prepared.

Tim Terry will do a survival check of trees at the park. On March 12 volunteers spread mulch at tree sites in the park; the mulch was donated by Mr. Jewel. Ms. Smith is working with Jim Mershon from Merrill Creek who will teach scouts from Mansfield Cub Scout Pack 222 how to care for the bluebird nesting houses. Mr. Terry is preparing his wording for the dedication plaque to be placed at the park. He has offered to move a large rock that could be used for mounting the plaque.

#### Environmental Issues

Mr. McMekin said another solar project is coming to NJ, at the Naval Base in Earle; it will be larger than the Great Adventure solar plan and parts of it are on disturbed land and will be in excess of 300 acres.

Mr. Todd MOVED to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante

**Next meeting date:  
May 12, 2016**